

Questions and Responses
VA248-13-B-2223
Construct Research Center, Bay Pines

SINKHOLE RFIs:

1. Bay Pines Medical Center is in a region of Florida with a relatively high frequency of sinkhole occurrences according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Geological Survey Poster No. 11. Has the VA conducted any subsurface investigation using technology such as ground penetrating radar to determine if sinkholes are present beneath the project footprint?

RESPONSE: The Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Geological Survey Poster No. 11 paints Florida with a broad brush. While southern Pinellas County is shown in a sinkhole prone area, documented sinkholes are extremely rare in the project area. The Mental Health Addition project has utilized drilled shafts and with over 300 borings and/or shafts drilled for this project, sinkhole conditions have not been encountered. Based on our knowledge of the area, geophysical testing was neither recommended nor conducted. The conditions for sinkhole development on the site are not present.

2. Should a sinkhole be discovered during the auger cast pile installation, causing the abandonment of a pile hole, under what contract clause will the contractor be paid for the abandoned work as potentially no portion of the pile would be complete?

RESPONSE: Situations of this nature are usually handled under FAR 52.236-2, Differing Site Conditions.

3. Should a sinkhole be discovered at the project site, who will be responsible for site stabilization engineering and design?

RESPONSE: THE GOVERNMENT

4. Should a sinkhole be discovered at the project site and subsequently stabilized, who will be responsible for certifying and/or re-engineering the project to ensure the structural soundness of the building design?

RESPONSE: See response to item 3 above.

5. If discovery of a sinkhole requires a delay in work during engineering and stabilization efforts will the Contractor be compensated for demobilization and remobilization of pile cast concrete equipment and personnel?

RESPONSE: The delay compensation clause for fixed-price construction contracts is the Suspension of Work clause contained in FAR 52.242-14.

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WATER TABLE RFIs:

1. What is the groundwater level at the project site and how much does it fluctuate with tide? Did the auger cast piling design take into account the lifting and falling effect of the tide on the piles to ensure that the structure will not shift and cause cracking or movement in the building finishes?

RESPONSE: At the time of drilling, September 2011, groundwater was encountered 2 to 2.8 feet below the ground surface. The seasonal high groundwater table was estimated to be 1 to 1.5 feet below the existing ground surface. The seasonal high groundwater table is expected to occur at the end of the rainy season, the months of August and September. While the water table will vary somewhat with the tide, this effect is anticipated to be on the order of 1 foot or less. The structural engineer will have to address the issue of design of the piles relative to tidal fluctuation, but we anticipate that the effect will be minimal.

2. Due to Bay Pines adjacency to the Gulf and its location on the Intermediate Confining Unit separating the Surficial and Floridian Aquifer Systems, there is likely little or no fresh groundwater outflow. Is the groundwater at the project site salt, brackish, or fresh water?

RESPONSE: The water on site is expected to include fresh water at the surface overlying brackish water that in turn will overlie salt water. Beneath a confining layer, fresh water can be expected to be found in the underlying limestone. No attempt has been made to determine the boundary between the types of water present. However, no issues were experienced during the soil test borings that were drilled with typical bentonite mud. Note that the boundary elevation will vary during the year depending upon the amount of recent rainfall. According to Potentiometric surface of the Upper Florida Aquifer prepared by the USGS and SWFWMD, the elevation of the potentiometric surface will be about +10 feet, or close to the existing ground surface. This defines the potential elevation to which fresh water from the Floridan aquifer may rise should a well be installed to the aquifer. While we do not anticipate artesian conditions, there is some potential for upward flow from the aquifer. No issues have been experienced during the construction of the drilled shafts for the Mental Health addition, some of which have been founded at about elevation -50 feet.

3. What groundwater condition was the current auger cast piling mix design and reinforcing system designed for: Salt, Brackish, or Fresh groundwater conditions?

RESPONSE: The reinforcement shall have 3" of concrete cover with a concrete mix design with type V cement and the use of corrosion inhibitor. Set-Accelerating Corrosion-Inhibiting Admixture: Commercially formulated, anodic inhibitor or mixed cathodic and anodic inhibitor; capable of forming a protective barrier and minimizing chloride reactions with steel reinforcement in concrete and complying with ASTM C 494/C 494M, Type C.

Products: Subject to compliance with requirements, available products that may be incorporated into the Work include, but are not limited to, the following:

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- a. *Axim Italcementi Group, Inc.; CATEXOL CN-CI.*
- b. *BASF Construction Chemicals - Building Systems; Rheocrete CNI.*
- c. *Euclid Chemical Company (The), an RPM company; EUCON BCN.*
- d. *Grace Construction Products, W. R. Grace & Co.; DCI.*

HURRICANE:

1. In the event of an approaching hurricane, how much time will the Contractor be given to remove equipment from the project site? Under what contract clause can the contractor make claim for the costs of preparing for an approaching hurricane.

RESPONSE: Contractor should be aware that the State of Florida is not immune from hurricanes. Contractor is responsible for securing the job site in the event of a hurricane. This responsibility is generally included in the Emergency Response Plan incorporated in the overall Safety Plan submitted by the Contractor for review by the VA. Bay Pines Emergency Operations Center uses NOAA's (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration) National Weather Service predictions to monitor weather systems. About 48 hours ahead of a storm, forecasters will issue a Hurricane Watch for areas within the 3-Day Cone that can expect hurricane conditions and about 36 hours prior, a hurricane warning may be issued; however, the Medical Center Director has authority to issue an evacuation order earlier than this 48-36 hour window for Bay Pines Healthcare System if the situation necessitates such a decision. Excusable delays in fixed-price construction contracts are normally dealt with under FAR 52.249-14, Excusable Delays and in para. (b) of the Default Clause in FAR 52.249-10, and are in addition to any other rights or remedies provided by law or under this contract.

2. In the event of a hurricane, if the Contractor is not given sufficient time to remove equipment from the project site (particularly equipment that requires significant time to dismantle and transport), under what contract clause can the contractor make claim for the costs associated with damage to that equipment caused by the hurricane?

RESPONSE: See response to item 1 above.

3. The Project Site is located in Hurricane Evacuation Zone A corresponding to greatest potential storm surge of 4 to 8 feet. If in the event of an impending hurricane, an evacuation order is issued, it is understood that the evacuation of hospital patients and staff would take priority over the evacuation of construction equipment. If as a result, the contractor is forced to abandon equipment at the project site, under what contract clause can he make claim for losses if that equipment is damaged or destroyed.

RESPONSE: See response to item 1 above.

DEMOLITION:

1. Sheet C101, note 16 of the plan set indicates that prior to any demolition; the Contractor will obtain a copy of the Asbestos survey. If an asbestos survey is not available, the Contractor is responsible for

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providing one. Are Asbestos surveys available for all buildings or portions of buildings identified for demolition? If so, please provide copies.

RESPONSE: An asbestos survey was performed for Building 23 and was issued with the Invitation for Bid on 8/30/2103.

2. Is an Asbestos Survey available for the B1 crawlspace as directional boring could and likely would release friable asbestos if such materials were incorporated into the B1 structure.

RESPONSE: An asbestos survey for Building 1, dated 2009, is being provided under this Amendment in addition to an ACM Summary Survey, dated 2011, for Bldg 1 and 23. Please see attached.

OTHER:

1. Section 01 00 00. We understand the extensive photographic requirement of the Contractor including indexing to AutoCad drawings by time and location, available in a secure and redundant on-line multi user interface. Photographers with such capabilities are not common. Please explain the requirement that the selected commercial photographer or photographic subcontractor “demonstrate an ability to service projects throughout North America”. This requirement seems overly limiting as the project is only located in Florida.

RESPONSE: Specification section 01 00 00 General Requirements, paragraph 1.29: Delete sub-paragraph A.2.

2. Section 01 32 16.13 paragraph 1.2.B states “the Contractor shall designate an authorized representative in the firm who will be responsible for the preparation of the network diagram.” Paragraph 1.3.A indicates that the Contractors Consultant will “prepare the network diagram”. Please clarify if the Contractor is required to hire a Consultant to prepare and maintain the project schedule even if the Contractor has its own employees with the capability of performing this task.

RESPONSE: Contractor is responsible for hiring a consultant in accordance with Specification 01 32 16.13 paragraph 1.3.

3. In Section 01 32 16.13 paragraph 1.3.C, the Contracting Officer reserves the right to reject the Contractors Project Scheduling Consultant. However, no standard is given for such a rejection. Please clarify if the Contracting Officer can reject the consultant even if the consultant meets the requirements of paragraph 1.3.B.

RESPONSE: Contractor must demonstrate compliance with the requirements noted in paragraph 1.3-B.

4. Section 01 32 16.13 paragraph 1.1.B. Please confirm that Primavera P6 (or latest version) is the only project scheduling software program acceptable to the Contracting Officer.

RESPONSE: Specified software shall be used.

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5. Para 3.4.A. says that length of short piles terminated due to foreseeable material will not be included in the total length of pile for payment at the unit price. It also excludes any adjacent piles the RE may require. Para 3.3.M. directs the contractor to locate piles as shown unless otherwise directed by the RE. Assuming the contractor's augering equipment meets the specifications and is therefore presumably capable of penetrating the foreseeable materials, if the contractor is unable to obtain the required depth when augering at a contractually required location will the VA pay for short piles and adjacent piles under the Differing Site Conditions or Changes clause?

RESPONSE: See Addendum 1. A revised section 31 63 16 Auger Cast Grout Piles specification has been provided.

6. Revised para 3.4.B. says the length of adjacent piles required by the RE or by soil conditions will not be included in the total length of piles for payment. Since adjacent piles would be made necessary by unforeseen, non-augerable material, will the VA pay for adjacent piles under the Differing Site Conditions clause?

RESPONSE: See Addendum 1. A revised section 31 63 16 Auger Cast Grout Piles specification has been provided.

7. If the answer to either 1 or 2 above is no, we are at a loss as to how to price the augering without including a considerable amount to protect ourselves against the possibility that conditions over which we have no control may arise. Perhaps it would be more fair to the VA and to the contractor if this work was based on an estimated quantity subject to price adjustment IAW the Variation in Estimated Quantity clause.

RESPONSE: See Addendum 1. A revised section 31 63 16 Auger Cast Grout Piles specification has been provided.

8. Please confirm the following items will be provided by the Owner or their representatives: Materials Testing, Soil Testing, Threshold Inspections Services, Builders Risk Insurance, and Building Permit Fees.

RESPONSE:

- a. Material Testing and any Soils Testing as specified in section 01 45 29 Testing Laboratory Services are to be retained and paid for by the contractor. See Addendum 1.***
- b. Threshold Inspections services as specified in section 01 45 29 Special Inspections are to be retained and paid for by the owner. These services will be performed at the owner's discretion. See Addendum 1.***
- c. Builder's Risk Insurance: Builder's Risk Insurance is not provided by the Government.***
- d. Building Permit Fees: Any required Permit Fees shall be the contractor's responsibility.***

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9. Please provide the manufacturer of the lock cylinders and existing keyway information in order to price all keys and keying for the new building to match the existing key system.

RESPONSE: *See Addendum 1.*

10. Please advise as to the procurement process (e.g. LPTA, Best Value, etc) for this effort; we have reviewed the reissued solicitation and have been unable to locate the information.

RESPONSE: *The procurement process for this solicitation is “Sealed Bidding” and is being conducted in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 14.*

11. We have reviewed the reissued solicitation and have only found proposal requirements related representations and certifications, pricing and EMR information.

RESPONSE: *THIS IS NOT A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND DOES NOT CONTAIN “PROPOSAL” REQUIREMENTS. The procurement process for this solicitation is “Sealed Bidding” and is being conducted in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 14. Any bid submitted should comply with FAR 52.214—5, Submission of Bids and FAR 52.214-18, Preparation of Bids – Construction.*

12. Section 13A on page 1 of the 1442 for this opportunity indicates “0” copies are to be submitted; no other submission information is given. Please confirm the preferred method of submission for this reissued opportunity (e.g. VA Vendor Portal, email or U.S. mail).

RESPONSE: *There is no “preferred method” of submitting a bid. Please follow the directions contained on Standard Form 1442, paragraph 13A and submit your bid in accordance with all the applicable provisions contained in this solicitation, including “Submission of Bids” and “Preparation of Bids – Construction”.*

13. It appears that the scale bar on the civil drawings is incorrect. When we verify dimensions on the drawings, they seem to be fine. It appears that it is just the scale bar that is off. Please ask the civil engineer to correct.

RESPONSE: *The scales noted on civil and landscape sheets are correct. The graphic scale indicators on sheets C101, C102, C103, C104, L101 and L102 are incorrect and should be disregarded.*